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JOHN GOLDIE AND THE REPUBLICATION OF HIS DIARY

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John Goldie (1793-1886) is remembered by users of Gray's *Manual* through the tallest and largest of Wood ferns, *Dryopteris goldiana* (Hook.) Gray (*Aspidium goldianum*), but few know his *Diary* published in 1897 in Toronto in a small privately printed edition. In the course of restoring materials in the Toronto Public Library, the Philadelphia artisan-bibliographer, Willman Spawn, discovered that the manuscript from which the 1897 printing was made differed from the published version and urged Goldie's granddaughter, Mrs. Theresa Goldie Falkner, to reissue the *Diary, verbatim et literatim*. It appeared December 6, 1967¹ with an introduction and thirty-six superscriptoral notes. To report factually, the notes which Mr. Spawn had so carefully prepared were drastically abbreviated and he did not see proofs before publication. Yet the *Diary* is now available for the first time as written by John Goldie, attractively bound in stiff-paper cover with a frontispiece portrait, and two pages reproduced from manuscript. Apart from its intrinsic botanical interest it will be a sought-for Americana item. We are grateful to Mrs. Falkner and Willman Spawn for their contribution to American botany.

¹*Dairy of a Journal through Upper Canada and some of the New England States, 1819*. John Goldie. [Toronto, 1967] x + 65 pp. portr. frontis. May be purchased from University of Toronto Bookstore, \$1.75 net.

The plate of "*Aspidium goldianum*" and the "original description" (pp. 64-65) are not satisfactorily identified. The plate reproduced here is Faxon's made for Daniel Cady Eaton's *Ferns of North America* (pl. XL) drawn from a Vermont specimen. The "original description" of *Aspidium goldianum* Hooker was published by Goldie in the *Edinburgh Philosophical Journal* in 1822. A map locating Goldie's place names would have been welcome, but the two examples of his handwriting will be useful in verifying labels encountered in herbaria. Goldie was not mentioned in *Index Herbariorum, Collectors Part II* (2) 1957. In addition to specimens at Kew about twenty Goldie specimens are preserved in the original Fielding Collection in the Oxford University Herbarium according to Hermia Clokie, *An Account of the Herbaria of the Department of Botany in the University of Oxford* (1964).

Fate dealt harshly with Goldie who came to America in 1817 on the advice of William Jackson Hooker of Glasgow whose enthusiasms for field collecting are well known. On three separate occasions Goldie lost his plant specimens in transit between Canada or New York and England. The loss of his botanical journal describing his collections made in Newfoundland, Quebec, Ontario, New York, and New Jersey, was an immediate tragedy to Goldie for it wiped out recognition of possible discoveries that might have been credited to him, and a permanent loss to us were the records of native vegetation which covered what today are, as Spawn observes, "housing developments, industrial parks, shopping centers and all the manifestations of urban sprawl." This surviving *Diary* is a fortunate reminder "of a land and a time we have left behind."

Biographical notices of Goldie have been liberally published and are listed below. Most of these are based on the autobiographical sketch which appeared in 1822. Almost wholly neglected is Goldie's own list of his American introductions and "observations" thereon (1827), brought to print by the zealot in horticultural publishing, John Claudius Loudon. But none of these accounts, largely repetitive, quote the two letters from Goldie to his professor extraordi-

nary, William Jackson Hooker, preserved at Kew. These are here published through the genial courtesy of Sir George Taylor. The first letter records his association with James McNab and his botanizing in Russia; his second was written from "Canada West" whither he immigrated to a farm "about a mile from Ayr, in the county of Waterloo," his new Scotland.

"Wrightfield, June 16, 1837

Dear Sir

I have been called upon by a medical student, Mr. Paton from Air, who stated that if he obtained a recommendation from any of your acquaintances he would be permitted to attend your Botanical Class: with regard to which, I beg leave to say, that although not very intimately acquainted with him, yet I believe him to be very deserving of encouragement in his studies. He has always sustained an excellent character; and his Mother who is a Widow, having lost her husband at sea, has by industry and economy, been able to support herself and family respectably: yet not able, without a great sacrifice, to afford her son the means requisite for the completion of his studies in the profession which he intends to pursue. He seems exceedingly anxious to attend the Botanical Class, and should you be as kind as [to] give him a ticket, I feel assured that it will be received with much gratitude. My Friend, Mr. James McNab² visited me the other day, and I expect to see him again to night on his way home. I am going to send by him a sketch of an Iris which I brought from St. Petersburg in 1830. It flowered last year but I am sorry to say that I have nearly lost the plant. The flower was very singular and very beautiful. The drawing was taken by a Lady; but it is not a good likeness of the flower. Mr. McNab will give more minute information. I would feel much gratified by having the name of the species. Should the plant live and flower with me again I will send you a specimen —

I am

Dear Sir

Your Honoura'

Obedt Sert.

John Goldie

²James McNab (1810-1878) had visited New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Richmond, Virginia, in 1834, and was to succeed his father William McNab (1780-1848) as Curator of the Edinburgh Botanic Garden in 1843

II

Ayr, Canada West
Sept 2nd 1851

Dear Sir William,

I am afraid that you will have forgotten me altogether. A very excellent young man from this quarter is going out to Jamaica as a missionary, and as he wishes to see through the Kew Gardens requested an introduction to you. My Friend, Mr. Scott, is very fond of plants, and knows all that is interesting in this vicinity.

I have now been located, as the Yankees say, in this place for the last seven years and am likely to remain here during life. There are many interesting plants in the neighbourhood, several of which I cannot make out from Pursh,³ and I have no other scientific work except Nuttall's Genera. I am sorry that I had no knowledge of Mr. Scott's going to London untill very lately else I would have had some specimens prepared to send you of such things as I could not make out satisfactorily.

I have bought a piece of land which I occupy as a farm, and have lately erected a Flour Mill, which has taken both my time and money and has prevented me from travelling so much as I would like to do. I have never been many miles from home except at N. York.

I found lately some of the *Gerardia quercifolia*,⁴ a beautiful plant. *Batschia canescens*⁵ is also fine, but very local, it is only in a few places that it is to be found. Mr. Scott found the *Batschia longiflora*⁶ near Toronto.

You must now have a splendid collection in the Kew Gardens, and I feel glad that the public are admitted to admire them.⁷

There is one of my sons in N. Jersey, who has taken a fancy for entomology, and who has made a good collection,⁸ but is greatly at a loss for a descriptive work on American Insects. If you will have the kindness to write to me, and state what may be the best work on the subject, I would feel greatly obliged — Would American Insects

³Frederick Pursh, *Flora Americae Septentrionalis* (London, 1814), 2 vols.

⁴*Gerardia flava* L.

⁵*Lithospermum canescens* (Michx.) Lehm.

⁶*Lithospermum incisum* Lehm.

⁷P. H. Gosse's *Wanderings through the Conservatories at Kew* (London, [1856]) offers an excellent commentary on Hooker's achievement.

⁸Judging from entomological rosters and history consulted, Walter Horn and Ilse Kahle (1935-36), Mathilde M. Carpenter (1945), and Harry B. Weiss (1936), the son's insect specimens did not survive.

sell in London? A letter from you would afford much gratification. I shall never forget your kindness. I feel confident that you will show my Friend all your rarities, and remain, Dear Sir W.

yours sincerely

John Goldie

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